

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bolivia

SUBJECT Yugoslav Immigrants in Bolivia

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1. There are approximately 1350 Yugoslavs at present residing in Bolivia. Of these, approximately 925 arrived in Bolivia prior to the outbreak of World War II, and 400 following the war. About twenty of the pre-war arrivals have since left Bolivia; most of these have gone to Chile and maintain business interests in Bolivia. Ten of the post-war immigrants have also since left Bolivia.
2. There are active Yugoslav clubs in La Paz, Cochabamba, and Oruro, composed of Titoists, who comprise the greater part of the Yugoslav colony in Bolivia. While there is a small number of fervent Communists sympathetic toward the USSR and international Communism, the majority are Communists only in the sense of being ardent Yugoslav patriots, who support the Tito regime as the best thing for Yugoslavia. The Club Yugoslav in La Paz, is headed by Srecko Sasunic, a leading La Paz businessman, and is composed for the most part of well-to-do merchants and industrialists. That in Cochabamba is headed by an M. Bakovic, and is also composed primarily of merchants and industrialists. Unlike the group in La Paz, most of the Yugoslavs in Cochabamba are pre-World War II immigrants. In Oruro, where the Club Yugoslav owns its own building and is extremely active, the majority of the members are connected with the mines. One J. Klaric is president of the Oruro Club.
3. There are only a few, if any, anti-Tito Yugoslavs in Oruro, and very few of them in La Paz and Cochabamba. Even these are not organized into groups, and there are no recognized leaders. No open dissension exists between the Titoists and anti-Tito forces. The anti-Tito group in Cochabamba is composed primarily of Yugoslav Catholic missionaries in that area.
4. There are no locally-inspired news or propaganda publications in Serbo-Croat. Considerable quantities of such material are received through the clubs from the Yugoslav Embassy and other Yugoslav organizations in Buenos Aires. Also received are newspapers printed in Serbo-Croat from the United States.

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